

s ruling 'annoying'

who was impeding the flow of traffic" on Bathurst Street.

Community worker Linda Morowei, Barnett's sister, called the SIU's investigation "a farce."

Now that the inquest

into Barnett's death has started, she and her team of lawyers — Bagambiire, Osborne Barnwell and Roger Rowe — are upset that Cairns has ruled that the systemic racism and mental health issues will

not be explored at the inquiry.

Morowei and the lawyers walked out of the inquest on opening day Monday, and Bagambiire says he plans to seek a "judicial review" of

Cairns' ruling.

He wants the courts to grant an interim injunction to stop the inquiry which has continued, despite the walkout by the lawyers.

See QUESTIONS page 18

Runciman 'willing' to talk

by LINCOLN
DEPRADINE

Ontario Solicitor General Bob Runciman, criticized for not taking up an offer to meet with the Jamaican Canadian Asso-

ciation (JCA) to discuss recent police shootings, now says he would be willing to talk to the families of seven Black men shot and killed by Metro police officers since 1992.

However, Runciman told Canadian Press a meeting wouldn't take place until court proceedings in all the cases are over.

The families of the dead men held a news conference last Friday calling for a public inquiry into the deaths of Raymond Lawrence, Ian Coley, Albert Moses, Tommy Barnett, Andrew Bramwell, Faraz Suleman and Wayne Williams —

all Black males.

Lawyer Julian Falconer, counsel for the Williams family, said "When 25 per cent of the people who are shot are Black, but they only represent seven per cent of the population, the question has to occur: Why?"

The province's Special Investigations Unit (SIU), which probes police shootings, has either cleared the officers involved in the shootings of wrongdoing, or is continuing with its investigative work.

The officer who shot Barnett last January was exonerated by the SIU, and the incident is now the subject of a

coroner's inquest.

Runciman says he "respects the concerns" being expressed about the police shootings.

"When we get through with the criminal proceedings and some of the investigations," he said, "I would have no difficulty in sitting down and listening to some of the concerns and seeing where that takes us."

However, Runciman added that he is not yet convinced that the string of police shootings of Black men in the Toronto area is a problem.

JCA president Herman Stewart, reacting to

See MANY page 4